



# STATE SENATOR **Wayne Kuipers**

## 30TH SENATE DISTRICT E-MAIL UPDATE



### **Ottawa County Senior Day**

Please join me this Friday, October 7, for the third annual Ottawa County Senior Day. The event begins at 8:00a.m. and lasts until 1:00p.m. and is being held at Resurrection Life church (12900 US 31 in Grand Haven). Come and enjoy exhibits of community service providers and health care professionals, hear keynote speakers and get flu shots and blood work done. Refreshments, goody bag, games, prizes and lunch are free to all participants.

### **Governor Signs Labor Day School Start**

In a bill that was recently signed into law by the Governor, Michigan parents, students and tourism-related business owners will benefit by requiring schools to start after Labor Day. The new starting date will allow parents to take longer trips during the extended weekend without having their children miss school days. Additionally, starting school after Labor Day will generate an estimated \$10 million more in tourism-related tax revenue for the state. The added tourism also would create an estimated 2,000 new jobs and between \$100 million and \$200 million in economic activity.

### **State Police Post Update**

It looks as if the State Police Posts in Grand Haven, Groveland Township, and Iron River are going to be kept open until December 1, 2005. However, it is possible that money leftover from fiscal year 2005 may be available to keep them open beyond December. I will work to look at all options with my colleagues. I have been part of the fight to keep the posts open. I even tried to amend the budget to keep the Grand Haven post open after the Governor proposed the close. Despite the closure, I did vote in support of the overall Michigan State Police budget because I thought that a vote against the entire budget would be irresponsible.

## **STATE BUDGET COMPLETED**

The state Senate has completed its work on the Fiscal Year 2005-06 budget, approving spending plans that are balanced without the need for increased fees and taxes. Most bills were signed into law on Friday by the Governor. Throughout the budget process, Senate Republicans focused on the priorities set forth by their constituents to ensure Michigan remains an economically viable state that is a great place in which to live, work, and raise a family.

### **AMONG THE POSITIVE HIGHLIGHTS OF NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET, SENATE REPUBLICANS:**

- Increased funding for K-12 public schools by \$175 per pupil.
- Increased funding for special education programs.
- Increased funding for school lunch programs.
- Maintained funding for young-fives programs.
- Restored funding for school bus safety inspection.
- Provided a funding floor of \$3,650 per student for public universities.

- Restored funding for scholarships, including the Michigan Tuition Grants and King-Chavez-Parks programs.
- Protected the Michigan Merit Award program from the Governor's proposed changes.
- Restored funding to the Agriculture Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.
- Restored \$1.3 million for fuel inspections and the hiring of additional inspectors to ensure customers are receiving the proper quantity and quality of fuel for which they paid.
- Restored funding for the Michigan Youth Correctional Facility in Baldwin and saved the state money by renegotiating the contract.
- Restored funding for hearing and vision screening services for Medicaid recipients.
- Required Medicaid recipients to sign a personal health responsibility agreement.
- Established co-pays to ensure people are taking responsibility for their healthcare decisions.
- Established a bipartisan joint committee to identify ways to reduce Medicaid costs.
- Required lights on all construction barrels to ensure the safety of motorists.
- Required the coordination of routes served by suburban and urban transit authorities to prevent wasteful spending of limited transportation dollars.
- Placed restrictions on state employees' out-of-state travel.
- Required the Department of Management and Budget to develop a plan for more effective assignment and authorized use of state vehicles.